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SENATE

{ REPORT
106-23

MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1999

MARCH 17, 1999.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 382]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 382) to establish the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 382, as ordered reported, is to establish the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota as a unit of the National Park System.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union came closer to nuclear war than at any other time in history. As the world watched, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and President John F. Kennedy engaged in a showdown over the U.S. demands that the Soviet Union remove its missiles from Cuba. It was at this point that the Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) was developed.

The Minuteman missile played a critical role in the Cold War arms race as America's first push button nuclear missile. Once the launch command was given and the keys were turned, a Minuteman missile could deliver its nuclear warhead to a Soviet target within 30 minutes or less.

Concerned over a missile gap, the United States raced to catch up with the perceived military superiority of the Soviets. During

the Cold War years, the U.S. Air Force deployed over 1,000 Minuteman missiles in underground silos throughout the central United States. Minuteman missiles were inconspicuous, silent, and unknown to the casual observer.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) required the deactivation of the nation's Minuteman Missile force including the 150 missiles and 15 launch facilities at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. In 1993, the National Park Service and the Air Force entered into a cooperative agreement to temporarily preserve two representative Minuteman sites, Delta One and Delta Nine at Ellsworth Air Force Base, until their long-term preservation could be evaluated.

In the same year, the Air Force requested and funded a Special Resource Study to assess the suitability and feasibility of adding the site to the National Park System. The National Park Service study was completed in June 1997, and found that the two Minuteman sites met the criteria for eligibility and suitability as a unit of the National Park System.

Since Delta One and Delta Nine and most of surrounding lands are Federally owned, there would be minimal acquisition costs for the site.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 382 was introduced on February 4, 1999 by Senators Johnson and Daschle and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation held a hearing on S. 382 on February 24, 1999.

During the 105th Congress a similar bill, S. 2284 was introduced by Senators Johnson and Daschle on July 9, 1998. The Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation held a hearing on S. 2284 on July 23, 1998.

At its business meeting on September 24, 1998, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 2284 favorably reported as amended. S. 2284 was passed by the Senate without amendment on October 7, 1998. No further action was taken in the House of Representatives.

At its business meeting on March 4, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 382, favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 4, 1999, by a unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 382, as described herein.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 designates the bill's short title as the "Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Act of 1999".

Section 2 lists the findings and purposes of the bill, including a finding that the proposed Minuteman missile sites, Delta 1 and Delta 9, have national significance as the best preserved examples of Cold War missile facilities. This Act would ensure these sites are

preserved, protected and interpreted for future generations. The site would also interpret the role of the Minuteman II system as a key component to preserve world peace and in the broader context of the Cold War and to complement programs at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Section 3 (a) establishes the “Minuteman Missile National Historic Site”, in the State of South Dakota, as a unit of the National Park System. The historic site includes the areas surrounding the launch control facilities known as Delta 1 and Delta 9, as depicted on the map referred to as “Minuteman Missile National Historic Site”, numbered 406/80,008 and dated September, 1998. The map is to be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

Subsection (b) provides that the Historic Site is to be administered in accordance with this Act and with laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–467).

Subsection (c) directs the Secretary to consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to ensure that administration of the historic site is in compliance with applicable treaties.

Subsection (d) authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with institutions and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, and interpretation of the site.

Subsection (e) authorizes the acquisition of lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange or transfer from another Federal agency. Lands owned by the State of South Dakota may only be acquired by donation or exchange. The Secretary may not acquire any lands that are contaminated with hazardous substances, unless all remedial action necessary to protect human health and the environment has been taken pursuant to such Act.

Subsection (f) requires the Secretary to submit to Congress a General Management Plan within three years after enactment of this Act. In developing the plan, the Secretary is to consider coordinating or consolidating management and personnel functions with Badlands National Park. The plan shall include an evaluation of locations for a visitor facility and administrative site. When an appropriate location is determined the boundary of the historic site shall then be modified to include the selected site.

Section 4 authorizes the necessary funding to carry out this Act. The section directs the Secretary of the Air Force to transfer to the National Park Service any funds specifically appropriated to the Air Force for the maintenance and preservation of the facilities. Nothing in this Act affects the use of Legacy Resource Management funds by the Air Force that were directed to be used for resource preservation and treaty compliance.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 11, 1999.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 382, the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

S. 382—Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1999

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 382 would cost the federal government about \$8.4 million over the next five years. Subsequent ongoing costs after this period would be about \$0.7 million annually. S. 382 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 382 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 382 would establish the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota as a unit of the National Park System. The new park unit would consist of the Delta 1 and Delta 9 launch facilities and one of two support facility areas that are under consideration for a visitor and administrative site. The NPS would have three years in which to complete a general management plan for the new park unit, including an evaluation of the alternative areas for the visitor and administrative facility.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that the government would spend about \$350,000 over the next three fiscal years to develop the general management plan for the Minuteman unit. The NPS would incur additional costs of about \$8 million over the 2000–2004 period to establish and begin operating the site, most of which would be used to build a visitor and administrative center. In subsequent years, the agency would spend about \$0.7 million to operate and maintain the new park.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation

of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 382. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards of significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from enactment of S. 382, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A representative from the National Park Service testified in support of S. 382 at a hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation on February 24, 1999.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by S. 382, as ordered reported.

